

debate on LB 88. The motion is whether to advance LB 88. I now recognize Senator Ashford, followed by Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President and members, just to bring you up to date as to where we are now, LB 88 was amended yesterday to include...by Senator Kristensen and myself and Senator Abboud to include some technical changes that were determined by both of us to be necessary in order to make certain that LB 88 conforms with current law and to make certain that intricate balancing that we had worked out initially in LB 88 was in the bill in total. I don't know whether there are any additional amendments. I might ask the Clerk. Pat, are there any additional amendments? We have debated this bill several times, obviously, and it's been debated over and over for the last five years. We have, in LB 88, attempted to forge a delicate balance in the area of torts and liability law. I would just like to point out two things that I think are important from my standpoint. And I want to thank Senator Kristensen again. Could I get a gavel, Madam President, please. Madam President, could I just get a quick gavel on there? (Gavel.) That's quick enough. The...I appreciate Senator Kristensen's efforts on this bill. We decided several days ago that we would try to make LB 88 a clean bill to deal with joint and several liability and with the slight gross standard and to try to create or put into LB 88 some of the concerns that he had involving that standard. And I appreciate his commitment to LB 88 now that those amendments have gotten on. And he now will have, as we have said over and over again, we will have an opportunity in the next several days to debate the issue of municipalities and counties and political subdivisions in LB 262. I would refer again to Senator Warner's statements yesterday, I think they're very important, which he said that he felt that the standard of liability in LB 88 should be applied to municipalities and counties as well as to normal cases that don't involve municipalities and counties. And I think that was an important point. The issue on municipalities and counties and the state will be the issue of exclusions or exemptions. Should the municipality, state and county be...or other political subdivisions be exempt or excluded from liability? Meaning would they not have to pay even though they are negligent in certain cases? And that will be an issue that will be discussed in LB 262. That's a bill on General File that will be coming up for debate within the next few weeks. I'm sure it will have a lot of controversy, just as LB 88 has had. But it is a legitimate issue to be debated and I appreciate very much